

# UNCTAD Statistics, Data and Digital Service

Data and digital capacity  
development in 2024

Trade and Development Board

Working Party on the Programme Plan and Programme  
Performance

26-28 January 2026



# ➤ Statistics, Data and Digital Service ToR

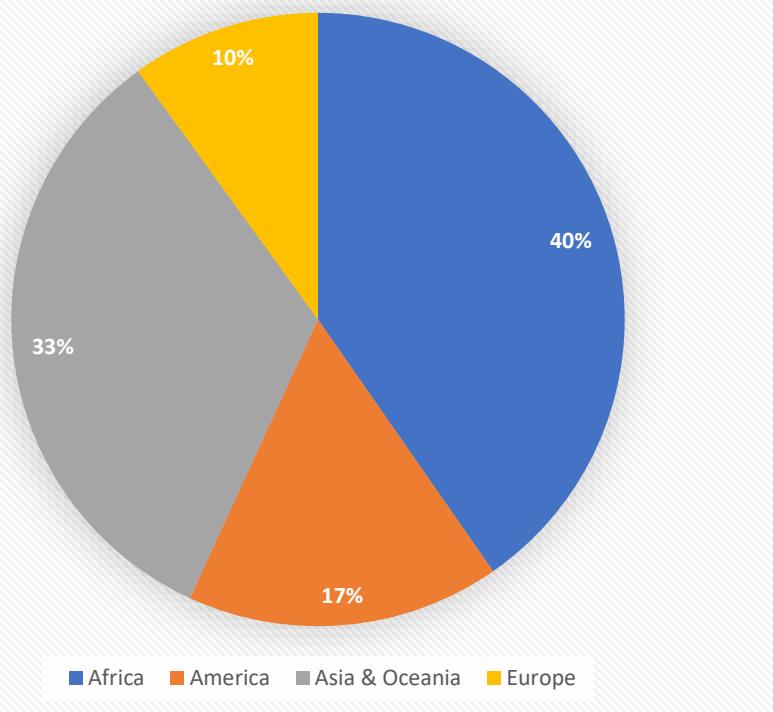
## 1. Provide high-quality data and statistics and data-analysis on trade and development, develop new methods and statistics, build countries' capacity

- [UNCTAD Data Hub](#) - a repository of key statistics, news, country profiles
- Annual [Handbook of Statistics](#) with its online version [Data Insights](#)
- Monitoring of progress towards the 2030 Agenda in [SDG Pulse](#)
- Major efforts in new statistics, statistical methods and global compilation standards, Beyond GDP
- Global statistical capacity building efforts, SDG indicators & trade statistics

## 2. Support UNCTAD programmes in delivering mandates through data and digital products

- Provide UNCTAD staff with the technology required to fulfill UNCTAD mandates, making optimal use of IT services provided by the UN Secretariat, to maximize efficiency.
- Design, develop and host data and digital products for UNCTAD programs.
- Advance digital transformation through innovative technologies (AI, cloud and micro-service architectures, mobile) and improved data governance.

ToR will be further refined in a new Data and Digital Strategy for UNCTAD



# E-learning in trade statistics

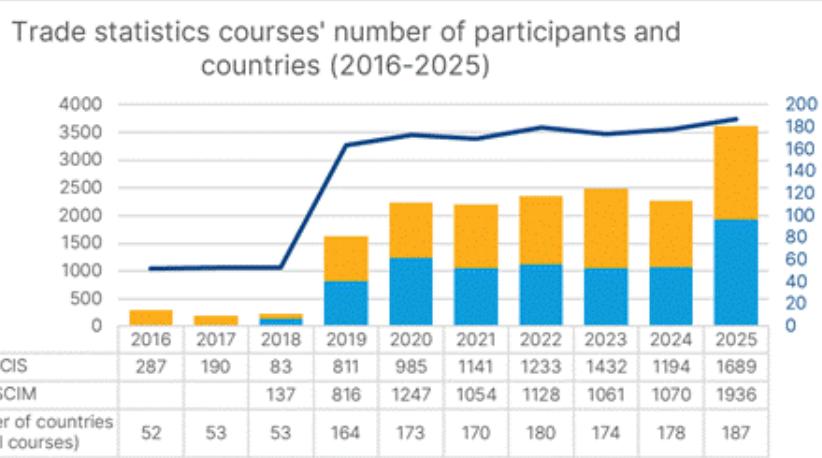
by UNCTAD Statistics with TrainForTrade, UNSD and WTO

**Blended learning:** online lectures in English and French, interactive forum, manual, quizzes, with a workshop or webinar.

**Global coverage** with growing participation:

- **Over 17'532 trained from 218 countries** since 2016 with **2'264 people trained in 2024**, with nearly half women.
- Among top countries by participants: Philippines, Indonesia, India, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Ghana, etc...

6 weeks' training enhanced knowledge and skills to understand and compile trade statistics and to solve data challenges.



# Statistics on trade in services in high demand

## Trade-in-Services Statistics Information System (TiSSTAT)

Programme designed to enhance national statistical capacities by providing a **comprehensive, modular system** for compiling high-quality trade in services statistics.



**UNCTAD-UEMOA** project to improve the quality of trade in services statistics (since 2013) through an **enterprise survey**

- Beneficiaries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo

### Outputs:

- Training workshops
- Harmonized questionnaire
- Legal framework guidance
- TiSSTAT statistical information system

**In 2024, refined TiSSTAT based on feedback and planned services trade surveys**

# ➤ Statistics on trade in services /2

## UNDA16 project, 2024-2027: Strengthening trade-in-services capacity in the Eastern Caribbean

- Beneficiaries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Statistics and DITC with ECLAC and regional partners, collaboration in related projects with WTO

### Achievements in 2024:

- **Launch at the Global Supply Chain Forum** in Barbados, May 2024
- **Stocktaking of services trade data and gaps**
- **Training on methods to measure services trade**



# ➤ Trusted SDG costing method



Building on SDG costing for the 2023 SDG Summit, as UNCTAD estimated how much developing countries need to spend to accelerate SDG achievement.

- **Launched a website on SDG costing methods and results** for:
  - Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution
  - Food systems
  - Education transformation
  - Social protection and decent jobs
  - Inclusive digitalization
- **Follow up work:** with UN Women on **achieving gender equality** and with UNICEF on **child-focused SDG targets**, from saving lives to improving health, education, protection, and climate resilience, while leveraging sectoral synergies

## UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2026–2029



### Survival & development

10 million child lives saved and at least 500 million children healthy, well-nourished and developmentally on track



### Learning & skills

350 million more children and young people learning and skilled



### Freedom from poverty

100 million fewer children in multidimensional poverty



### Protection from violence

350 million children protected from violence



### Climate, environment & disasters

500 million children better protected from disasters, climate and environmental risks

# ➤ Illicit financial flows (IFFs) – SDG indicator

- UNCTAD **custodian of SDG indicator** 16.4.1 with UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Agreed *Conceptual Framework* and *Methodological Guidelines* **tested in pilots by 22 member States on 3 continents**, as reported in the *SDGPulse* -> first data available in the global SDG database.
- **Goal:** help track illicit financial flows to **strengthen domestic resource mobilization**
- **2 projects in 2024:** UNDA project with UNODC & Regional Commissions, an OSF-funded project with ALDC & 12 countries
- **IFFs from trade misinvoicing equal 5-30% of total goods trade**
- **40+ countries requesting support**
- **GA 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee asked UNCTAD to strengthen work to support all interested countries**

➤ Map 1. 22 countries have studied the measurement of IFFs in 2018-2022 and 12 countries are doing so between 2023 and 2026



# ➤ South-South Cooperation – SDG indicator

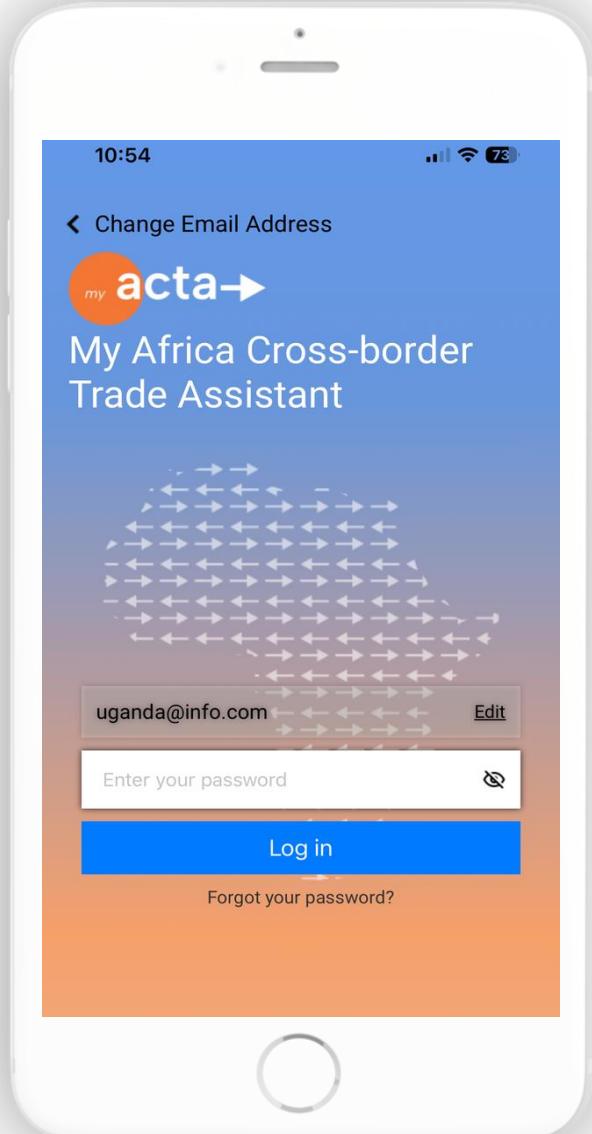
- UNCTAD custodian of SDG indicator 17.3.1 to report data on South-South cooperation. OECD's TOSSD the custodian for data on North-South flows.
- *Voluntary Framework to measure South-South cooperation*, developed by the global South, adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2022
- **Goal:** enable **first-ever globally inclusive information** on development support by having data, owned and reported by the South in their own Framework.
- UNDA project on measurement of **South-South cooperation** for SDGs with UNSD, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, 2023-2026, **developed in 2024:**
  - **Discussed, now released *Manual* to measure SSC** (English, Spanish, Arabic)
  - **Developed e-learning materials and online data collection tool**, launch in 2026
- **GA 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee asked UNCTAD to strengthen work to support all interested countries**
- **Early data from six pilot countries show: in-kind support is essential**, often targeting gaps in health, education, partnerships, peace and institutions and hunger.
- In 2026, **first reporting of South-South data** and **new Data Insights** expected

# ➤ New projects launched or planned

- UNDA17 project, 2025-2028, **Evidence-based climate action through AI and data innovation in the Caribbean**, with DTL, DITC and UNDESA, in cooperation with UNEP, CARICOM, ECLAC and IMO.
- UNDA18 project, 2026-2029: **Better statistics on digital services trade for gender-responsive trade policy** to enhance TiSSTAT with DTL and ESCAP. Consulting with Bhutan, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Papua new Guinea and Viet Nam
- UNDA19 project, 2027-2030 on **Resilient, future-ready and integrated policy frameworks for sustainable development-aligned financing in Africa and Asia**, with ECA and ESCAP to help countries develop their own development focused budgeting and data.
- Sevilla FfD4 SPA: **Community of practice to track the hidden: Leveraging data and technology to combat IFFs** (with UNODC, Africa-Europe Foundation, African Union Development Agency)
- Sevilla FfD4 SPA: **Community of practice to leverage South-South Data: solidarity at the core of sustainable development** (with UN Regional Commissions)

# ➤ Emerging: digital transformation projects

- With DITC: data collection and management for **non-tariff measure data** (AI-supported knowledge extraction and integration with Pacific islands Trade Portals under the IMPACT project).
- With DTL: data collection tool for **official statistics on ICT use** by Enterprises and on the ICT Sector.
- With ALDC: **mobile app** supporting national statistical offices in collecting **informal cross-border trade** data in African countries.
- With DIAE: AI-supported learning assistant for **International Investment Agreements**.
- With DTL and DITC: Python notebooks for the UN Global Platform to **estimate GHG emissions from maritime activity** with satellite data.
- Opensource package for **AI-powered nowcasting** of economic data
- TiSSTAT **software for of trade-in-services** data collection & demo.



# ➤ Call for partners to close data divides

- UNCTAD is increasingly asked for support to build better statistical, data and digital skills and solutions.
- Demand for support to measure **illicit financial flows (40 countries)** and **South-South cooperation (66 countries)** remains very high and progress in pilots very promising.
  - The new service aims to develop digital solutions to track illicit finance in Customs systems, and to collect South-South data from across agencies.
- Seeking funding to **help countries develop SDG-aligned budgeting expanding SDG costing initiative**, including for gender equality measures.
- **UNCTAD Trust Fund for trade-in-services statistics** as over 40 member states seek support for trade in services statistics: Asia-Pacific, SADC, Mexico, GCC, Caricom



TiSSTAT adoption faces funding shortages, technical barriers and lack of staff time.

# Thank you

